

# NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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***For Immediate Release***

**MAY 5, 2004**

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on April 13, 2004, **BRIAN MICHAEL HARRINGTON**, age 41, of Ziegler, Illinois, and **JOSHUA MICHAEL DAVID MURPHY**, age 26, of Ziegler, Illinois, were sentenced in the United States District Court in Benton. HARRINGTON was sentenced to 210 months imprisonment, four years supervised release, and was fined \$1,200. MURPHY was sentenced to 78 months imprisonment and four years supervised release.

HARRINGTON had previously pleaded guilty to three counts in a federal indictment. MURPHY had previously pleaded guilty to one count in a federal indictment.

Count 1 charged that from on or about September 2002, through on or about February 18, 2003, in Franklin County, HARRINGTON and MURPHY conspired to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(C); all in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846. Count 2 charged that on or about February 18, 2003, in Franklin County, HARRINGTON was a convicted felon in possession of a firearm in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(2). Count 3 charged that from on or about December 2000, through on or about July 11, 2001, in Jackson County, HARRINGTON conspired to manufacture and distribute more than fifty (50) grams of methamphetamine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B); all in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Illinois State Police, and other local police agencies pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses in the system that will get them the most time.

Both the Franklin County States Attorney's Office and the Jackson County State's Attorney's Office have assisted throughout the investigation and has prosecuted a number of individuals in related cases in state court.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.